

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image formation apparatus comprising:
 - a charging unit for charging an image carrying member to a predetermined potential;
 - an exposure unit for exposing said image carrying member in order to form an electrostatic latent image corresponding to image information signals from an external device onto said image carrying member charged by said charging unit;
 - a developing unit for developing said electrostatic latent image on said image carrying member with a developing agent to form a developing agent image;
 - a transfer unit for applying a transfer voltage onto a transfer member to transfer said developing agent image on said image carrying member onto a recording medium;
 - a fixing unit comprising
 - a heating member for thermally fixing said developing agent image onto said recording medium on which said developing agent image is transferred by said transfer unit, and
 - a pressure member for transporting said recording member while pressing said recording member against said heating member;
 - an output unit for outputting information related to

the environment in which said image formation apparatus is disposed; and

a control unit for providing a predetermined lowering period of temperature for reducing temperature at said fixing unit between a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to previous image information signals is transferred and a fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to next image information signals has been transferred;

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature based on information related to said environment which said detecting unit detects.

2. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control unit reduces temperature at said pressure member by stopping heating with said heating member during said predetermined lowering period of temperature.

3. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control unit controls said heating member to maintain a predetermined temperature in said fixing operation, and reduces temperature at said pressure member by controlling said heating member to maintain lower temperature than said predetermined temperature during said

predetermined lowering period of temperature.

4. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said information related to the environment is information related to the resistance of said transfer member.

5. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said output unit outputs information related to said resistance value based on said transfer voltage which is applied to said transfer member so that a constant current flows into said transfer member.

6. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said control unit sets said predetermined period for a case of said transfer voltage being said predetermined voltage or less, to be longer than said predetermined period for a case of said transfer voltage being greater than said predetermined voltage.

7. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature by changing a period required for predetermined post-processing operations which said control unit executes following said fixing operations for a

recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said previous image information signals is transferred.

8. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature by changing a period from the end of predetermined post-processing operation which said control unit executes following said fixing operations for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said previous image information signals is transferred, to the start of fixing operations for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said next image information signals has been transferred.

9. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said period until the start of said fixing operation is a period until the start of heating with said heating member.

10. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control unit controls said heating member to maintain a predetermined temperature during said fixing operation, and also changes said predetermined temperature

based on information related to said environment output by said output unit.

11. An image formation apparatus comprising:
 - a charging unit for charging an image carrying member to a predetermined potential;
 - an exposure unit for exposing said image carrying member in order to form an electrostatic latent image corresponding to image information signals from an external device onto said image carrying member charged by said charging unit;
 - a developing unit for developing said electrostatic latent image on said image carrying member with a developing agent to form a developing agent image;
 - a transfer unit for applying a transfer voltage onto a transfer member to transfer said developing agent image on said image carrying member onto a recording medium;
 - a fixing unit comprising
 - a heating member for thermally fixing said developing agent image onto said recording medium on which said developing agent image is transferred by said transfer unit, and
 - a pressure member for transporting said recording member while pressing said recording member against said heating member;

a detecting unit for detecting said transfer voltage applied to said transfer member so that a constant current flows into said transfer member; and

a control unit for providing a predetermined lowering period of temperature for reducing temperature at said pressure member between fixing operations for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to previous image information signals is transferred and fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to next image information signals has been transferred,

wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature for a case of said transfer voltage detected by said detecting unit being said predetermined voltage or less, so as to be longer than said predetermined lowering period of temperature for a case of said transfer voltage being greater than said predetermined voltage.

12. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control unit lowers temperature at said pressure member by stopping heating with a heating member during said predetermined lowering period of temperature.

13. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11,

wherein said control unit controls said heating member to maintain a predetermined temperature said fixing operation, and lowers temperature at said pressure member by controlling said heating member of said fixing unit to maintain lower temperature than said predetermined temperature during said predetermined lowering period of temperature.

14. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature by changing a period required for predetermined post-processing operation which said control unit executes following said fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said previous image information signals is transferred.

15. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control unit sets said predetermined lowering period of temperature by changing a period from the end of predetermined post-processing operations which said control unit executes following said fixing operation for a recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said previous image information signals is transferred, to the start of fixing operations for a

recording medium on which a developing agent image corresponding to said next image information signals.

16. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said period until the start of said fixing operation is a period until the start of heating with said heating member.

17. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control unit controls said heating member to maintain a predetermined temperature during said fixing operation, and also changes said predetermined temperature based on said transfer voltage detected by said detecting unit.

18. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 1, said heating member comprising:

a film member which rotates while being contact with a recording member; and

a heater member for heating a developing agent image on said recording member through said film member.

19. An image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, said heating member comprising:

a film member which rotates while being contact with a

recording member; and

a heater member for heating a developing agent image on
said recording member through said film member.